



HIV/AIDS

AND

ASIAN AMERICANS/ PACIFIC ISLANDERS

What We Know:

- Like other communities of color, the number of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living with AIDS continues to rise.¹
- Through December 2001, AIDS cases among Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders accounted for just under **1 percent** of reported AIDS cases¹; however, the proportion of AIDS cases in AA/PI varies by area (e.g., in 2000, the AA/PI population represented **27 percent** of reported AIDS cases in Hawaii²).
- Through December 2001, 6,157 Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders had been reported with AIDS; an additional 636 had been reported with HIV infection from areas with confidential HIV reporting.¹
- Of the AA/PI adults and adolescents reported with AIDS through December 2001, **87 percent were men** and **13 percent were women**. Among men, at least **71 percent** of AIDS cases were among **men who have sex with men**.¹ Among AA/PI **women**, at least **49 percent** of AIDS cases were attributed to **heterosexual contact**. Heterosexual contact accounted for a greater proportion of AIDS cases among AA/PI women than among all other racial/ethnic groups.
- Ten states account for over three-fourths of the AA/PI population (CA, NY, HI, TX, IL, NJ, WA, VA, FL, MA).³ **Of these states, only FL, NJ, TX, and VA had reported HIV data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** as of December 2001. Furthermore, some of these states had only recently initiated HIV reporting (e.g., FL in July 1997 and NY in June 2000) Thus, the full impact of HIV on the AA/PI population is not known.¹
- Although few HIV/AIDS cases have been reported from the six U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions, rapid population growth, high teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates, increased mobility, immigration, and tourism all point to a potential HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Pacific region. Therefore, targeted HIV prevention is critical.
- A recent seven-city study conducted by the CDC found that **3 percent of young gay and bisexual AA/PI men surveyed during 1994 and 1998** were HIV positive.⁴
- Among AA/PI **women** reported with HIV infection (not AIDS) through December 2001, **51 percent** had no risk for HIV transmission reported or identified, primarily because public health followup to ascertain the mode of HIV exposure had not been completed. This statistic highlights the need for additional data regarding AA/PI women and their risk for HIV.

HIV/AIDS is devastating communities of color around the globe in ways that we don't fully comprehend. What we DO know is that more Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AA/PI) are becoming infected. Know the facts, and join the fight against HIV/AIDS!





Major Challenges in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in AA/PI Communities Are:

- Tremendous growth in the population.
- National HIV/AIDS surveillance system that cannot adequately describe the diversity of the population (i.e., 100+ languages and dialects among AA/PI persons living in the United States) at the national level.
- HIV diagnoses often made late in the progression of the disease.
- Lack of culturally/linguistically appropriate HIV prevention and treatment services in many areas.

Let's Take Action!

Here are some suggestions on how to fight HIV/AIDS in AA/PI communities:

- Continue to learn and share information about how HIV/AIDS is affecting AA/PI communities.
- Volunteer and support AA/PI community-based organizations (CBOs) providing HIV prevention and care services in critical states and regions across the United States. (Refer to the 10 key states on the reverse side.)
- Help increase AA/PI representation in your local HIV prevention community planning and Ryan White CARE Act planning.
- Create culturally/linguistically appropriate HIV prevention and treatment materials and services.

Resources!

- Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum-Tel: (415) 954-9988 or Web site: www.apiahf.org
- *Physicians Guide to Working with Asians and Pacific Islanders Living with HIV*, a manual produced by the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center-Tel: (415) 292-3400, TTY: (415) 292-3410, or Web site: www.apiwellness.org
- "What Are Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Prevention Needs?" fact sheet developed by the University of California-San Francisco, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies-Tel: (415) 597-9100 or Web site: www.caps.ucsf.edu/API.html
- Order free materials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Tel: (800) 458-5231 or Web site: www.cdcnpin.org
- *Pocket Guide to Minority Health Resources*-lists AA/PI CBOs and more! Tel: (800) 444-6472

For more information on HIV/AIDS and the AA/PI population of the United States, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-458-5231 or on the Internet at www.cdcnpin.org.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, 2001; Vol. 13 (No.2).

² State of Hawaii, *AIDS Surveillance Quarterly Report*, December 2000.

³ President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. *A People Looking Forward: Action for Access and Partnerships in the 21st Century, Interim Report to the President*. January 2001. Web site: www.aapi.gov.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "HIV Incidence Among Young Men Who Have Sex With Men - Seven U.S. Cities, 1994-2000." *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2001; 50: 440-444.